AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for coordinated execution of distributed tasks, comprising:

receiving, by a first computer in a group of peer computer, a set of execution instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions identifying a sequence of tasks to be performed and an assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding, by the first computer to the other peer computers in the group, execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions such that each peer computer in the group is informed of tasks assigned thereto in relation to tasks assigned to the other peer computers;

executing, by the first computer, tasks assigned thereto in connection with execution of tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group; and

transmitting, by the first computer to the other peer computers, ~~peep-to-peer~~ <u>peer-to-peer</u> communication messages containing task execution status to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks.

2. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.

3. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the execution

instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.

4. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the execution

instructions are provided to the first computer in an input XML document.

5. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 4, having further computer-

executable instructions for the first computer to process the input XML document to derive the

execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.

6. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 5, wherein the first computer

formats the execution instruction information as a second XML document for sending to the

other peer computers.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium <u>as in claim 1</u>, having further

computer executable instructions for the first computer to perform the step of reporting results of

execution of tasks to a database.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of performing coordinated execution of distributed

tasks by a group of peer computers, comprising:

receiving, by a first computer in the group of peer computers, a set of execution

instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions identifying a sequence of tasks to

be performed and an assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding, by the first computer to the other peer computers in the group, execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions such that each peer computer in the group is informed of tasks assigned thereto in relation to tasks assigned to the other peer computers;

executing, by the first computer, tasks assigned thereto in connection with execution of tasks assigned to the other peer computers in the group; and

transmitting, by the first computer to the other peer computers, ~~peep-to-peer~~ <u>peer-to-peer</u> communication messages containing task execution status to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the execution instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the execution instructions are provided to the first computer in an input XML document.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further including the step of processing the input XML document by the first computer to derive the execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein the step of processing formats the execution instruction information as a second XML document for sending to the other peer computers.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 8, further including the step of reporting results of execution of tasks by the peer computers to a database.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing automated execution of distributed tasks, comprising:

a plurality of peer computers connected by a network, each peer computer having an execution agent residing thereon, the execution agent of each peer computer being programmed for receiving a set of execution instructions for the peer computers, the execution instructions identifying a sequence of tasks to be performed and an assignment of the tasks to the peer computers;

forwarding to the execution agents on the other peer computers execution instruction information derived from the execution instructions such that each peer computer in the group is informed of tasks assigned thereto in relation to tasks assigned to the other peer computers;

executing tasks assigned to said each peer computer in connection with execution of tasks assigned to the other peer computers; and

transmitting to the other peer computers peep-to-peer peer-to-peer communication messages containing task execution status to synchronize and coordinate the execution of the sequence of tasks.

16. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the sequence of tasks to be performed constitutes a test run of interactive computer operations.

17. (Original) A computer system as in claim 1, wherein the execution instructions include a job that executes a predefined set of tasks.

18. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the execution instructions are provided in an input XML document.

19. (Original) A computer system as in claim 18, wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is further programmed to process the input XML document to derive the execution instruction information for sending to the other peer computers.

20. (Original) A computer system as in claim 19, wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is programmed to format the execution instruction information as a second XML document.

21. (Original) A computer system as in claim 15, furthering including a test result database, and wherein the execution agent of said each peer computer is programmed for reporting results of execution of tasks to the test result database.